



*Propagating the New Work Disability Prevention Paradigm for Disability Benefits & Workers' Comp Systems Across North America*

## **60 Summits: Montana**

### **Purpose Statement**

We, the members of the 60 Summits: Montana Executive Committee, have come together in order to:

- Promote the adoption of the new work disability prevention paradigm for disability benefits and workers' compensation systems embodied in the American College of Occupational & Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) guideline entitled "Preventing Needless Work Disability by Helping People Stay Employed".
- Establish an effective mechanism for getting the common-sense and evidence-based recommendations made in the ACOEM guideline off the paper and into everyday use.
- Create a broad-based local group of volunteers committed to propagating this new way of thinking throughout Montana.
- Focus our energies on creating Summit workshops in Montana that will in turn create fresh thinking, action for change, and system improvements.
- Plan and convene Summit workshops for people of good will who are key stakeholders in Montana: employers; healthcare providers; claims/benefits administrators; workers; WC attorneys; public policy makers; and others.
- Create concrete action plans for stakeholders to implement the guideline in Montana, thereby lowering workplace disability ('medically-related' time away from work or on 'light duty' with less than full productivity).
- Ensure that the Summit workshops that we produce:
  - Introduce the new paradigm and the ACOEM guideline's 16 specific recommendations;
  - Challenge participants to decide whether to implement the recommendations in their own business, community and jurisdiction;
  - Create a respectful, independent and high quality environment in which the participants can communicate and collaborate with one another to identify concretely how to implement them; and
  - Garner written commitment from participants to join with the State and LMAC to form an on-going group that will work together over time to actually carry out the strategies and action plans identified during the Summit workshops.